

In addition to allowing the federal courts to better plan and control their budget, which will improve the delivery of judicial services to the public, this Act will improve the transparency associated with how the judiciary's funds are spent.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which I am introducing in direct response to the plea of the Chief Justice that this issue "now warrant[s] immediate attention and action." I and the Judiciary Conference of the U.S. look forward to the House passing this legislation without delay.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE McCANDLESS ROTARY CLUB

##### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the volunteers of the McCandless Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club of McCandless was founded in 1988, and will be holding its 10th annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, Thursday, February 9, 2006. For the past 10 years this dinner has honored individuals who have given their time, talent and finances in support of churches and synagogues, human service agencies, fire and police departments and Ivan flood recovery. This year, however, will be the first year that blood and organ donors will be honored. The club also gives \$10,000 to various community agencies in the area and hosts a monthly bingo game for the residents of the Regency Nursing Home.

The dinner honors the commitment of McCandless residents, including: Frank and Judy Holby, organ donors; Rev. Jean Henderson, platelet donor; Marlynn Baldo, blood and platelet donor; Patricia DiClemente, organ, platelet and blood donor; John Dauer, whole blood donor; and Edmond Olszewski, bone marrow donor. The club has recently completed a shipment of computers and pharmaceuticals to Benin. Two club members, Denny and Kathy Crawford, have participated in two Polio National Immunization Days in Africa.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Pennsylvania American Water on receiving the Directors Award. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a dedicated club such as the Rotary Club of McCandless.

#### COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND COMPLETION OF THE MODERNIZATION PROJECT AT HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce to my colleagues that on February 24, 2006, Hillsdale High School, in San Mateo California, which is in my Congressional District, will be commemorating its fif-

tieth anniversary and will be celebrating the completion of a modernization project that will ensure that Hillsdale's doors are open for students for another 50 years or more.

The San Mateo Union High School district has six outstanding high schools. Nearly 6 years the citizens of San Mateo voted for a \$137.5 million bond measure to modernize these wonderful schools. Hillsdale High School determined to construct a new Student Services building as well as substantive remodeling of the library, science building, general education classrooms, the cafeteria, the theater, the auditorium, a music building, and the gym's and locker rooms. As a result of these renovations Hillsdale High School will continue to play a leading educational role in the San Mateo Union High School district.

Mr. Speaker, Hillsdale High School is truly an extraordinary learning institution. The award winning design of the school, profiled in Life Magazine when the school opened its doors 50 years ago, continues to receive praise and distinctions. Of special note is the fact that Hillsdale High School was recently recognized by the United States Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This remarkable recognition was bestowed on only 260 schools in the United States. In addition to Hillsdale's achievements in the classroom, the school's rich athletic tradition displayed in league championships and distinguished alumni playing at the collegiate and professional levels.

Mr. Speaker, the modernization and new construction at Hillsdale High School was made possible because of the amazing dedication and work demonstrated by the Board of Trustees, community leaders, parents, school staff, the public at-large, and the now-retired Superintendent Thomas C. Mohr. Without their spectacular efforts, the modernization project would not have succeeded. I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hillsdale High School community on the successful modernization of its facility and on its 50th anniversary.

#### NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

##### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week was established in 1978. It takes place every year during the week of February 14 and it is an opportunity to salute America's veterans and ensure to them that their sacrifices for their country are not forgotten. Next week, members of my district staff will visit the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston.

They will pay tribute and honor to the brave soldiers there who were wounded in their valiant service to our country. They have made an enormous sacrifice to ensure that we all are able to live in freedom and we are indebted to them. This is the American people's chance to say thank you for that sacrifice. It is vitally important that we do not forget these defenders of freedom and do all that we can to help them along in their recovery.

I am proud to say that my staff will be bringing get well cards, and other tokens of appre-

ciation, from the students of Deerwood Elementary School in Kingwood, Texas. It is a fitting tribute, from the young children to the soldiers, who have fought to guarantee the America they inherit is as free as it is today.

The entire 2nd Congressional District of Texas says thank you to these brave men and women for their service and their sacrifice. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID H. SMITH

##### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David H. Smith of Rio Blanco County, as the honored recipient of the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award from the Colorado Water Congress.

The career of David H. Smith reflects his extraordinary dedication to the protection of water rights in the State of Colorado. His inspiring leadership on these very important issues is greatly appreciated by all citizens of Colorado.

Mr. Smith's passion for conservation and leadership in water issues lead to a 20-year tenure on the Colorado Water Conservation Board as well as 12 years of service as Rio Blanco County's director on the Colorado River Water Conservation Board. Mr. Smith's commitment to his community extends beyond water issues to service on the county planning commission and the local school board. Mr. Smith himself is a rancher in the region and has devoted his life to the protection and maintenance of this lifestyle.

Family and friends have been quick to praise Mr. Smith as someone who has exemplified genuine concern for the water rights of the citizens of Colorado. Mr. Smith displayed his resolve during the oil-shale boom in the 1970s and 1980s when he guaranteed the preservation of property and water rights in Western Colorado. Later, during the 2002 drought, Mr. Smith was instrumental in negotiating a water-sharing plan for White River Valley ranchers and farmers.

Even with all his public service, Mr. Smith maintains a strong family life, having been married to his wife Sue Ann for 53 years with two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Smith's story is one of compassion and commitment, not only for the protection of the rights of the ranchers and farmers in his region but also for the maintenance of a lifestyle learned from his great-grandfather, an immigrant from Scotland who introduced Mr. Smith to the ideas of irrigation. A life of service and leadership, of achievement and ambition, Mr. Smith's accomplishment is one that deserves recognition and respect by all citizens of Colorado who have benefited from his devotion.

It is a tremendous honor to stand today and publicly recognize Mr. David H. Smith for his many contributions to the community. It is my privilege to extend congratulations to Mr. Smith for the receipt of the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award.